

Remarks:

Reconsideration of this US National Phase application in view of the above-amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 5-29 are currently pending in this application. More specifically, Claims 1-3, 5-14 are original to priority PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015245; Claim 4 has been canceled; whereas Claims 15-29 are being newly presented. Claims 15-29 are being newly presented in order to more fully set forth the subject matter that the Applicants believe to be their invention. In this regard, independent Claim 15 recites a process for making a shaped article of manufacture from a sheet or roll of a thermoplastic material, wherein the thermoplastic material consists essentially of a virgin thermoplastic material admixed with a previously processed thermoplastic material, wherein the virgin material and the previously processed thermoplastic material are of the same chemical composition, and wherein the previously processed thermoplastic material is in an amount that ranges from about 5% to about 100% by weight of the thermoplastic material, and wherein the process includes at least the steps of (a) pressurizing, (b) depressurizing, and (c) forming, wherein the step of forming occurs before the impregnated plasticizing gas concentration falls below about 0.5 percent by weight of the plasticized thermoplastic material. Support for newly presented Claims 15-29 may be found throughout the Specification and in particular at page 14, lines 5-7; page 17, lines 26-29; page 18, lines 28-31; page 23, lines 3-7; and throughout the Examples. No new matter has been added.

As way of background and in addition to the filing of priority PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015245, the Applicants of the present invention concurrently filed on May 14, 2004, two other related international applications with the U.S. Receiving Office (under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)); namely, (1) PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015246 entitled "Method of Producing Thermoformed Articles from Gas Impregnated Polymer," and (2) PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015304 entitled "Foamed PET Packaging." The priority and two other related international applications all claim priority to a single U.S. provisional application filed on May 17, 2003 (namely, U.S. Application No. 60/471,477 entitled "Thermoformed Foamed Thermoplastic Packaging"). The present US National Phase application is thus related to two other US National Phase applications; namely, (1) U.S. Application No. 11/106,190 entitled "Method of Producing Thermoformed Articles from Gas Impregnated Polymer" filed April 13, 2005

Preliminary Amendment

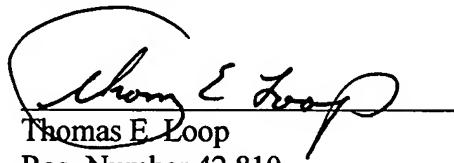
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(corresponds and claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015246), and (2) a concurrently filed application entitled "Foamed PET Packaging" (corresponds and claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/015304). The present application is being prosecuted by a registered patent attorney different than the one who drafted and prosecuted the priority and two other related international applications.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of Claims 1-3 and 5-29 is earnestly solicited. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, any further matter requires attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned patent attorney to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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